TORIBAKO HOUSE

VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 1

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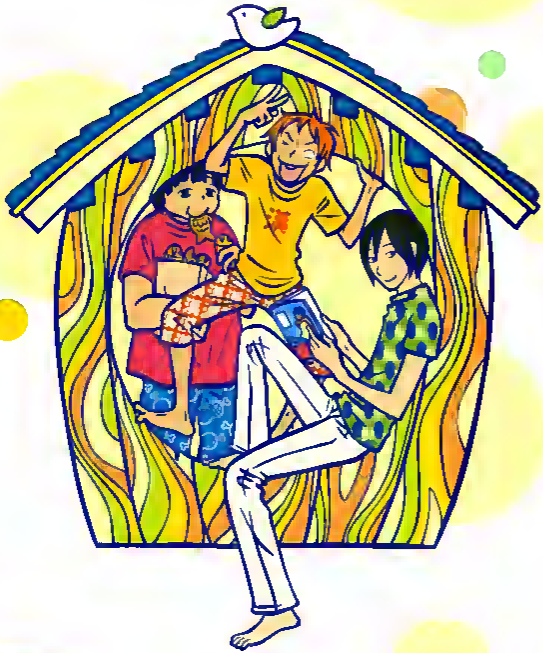

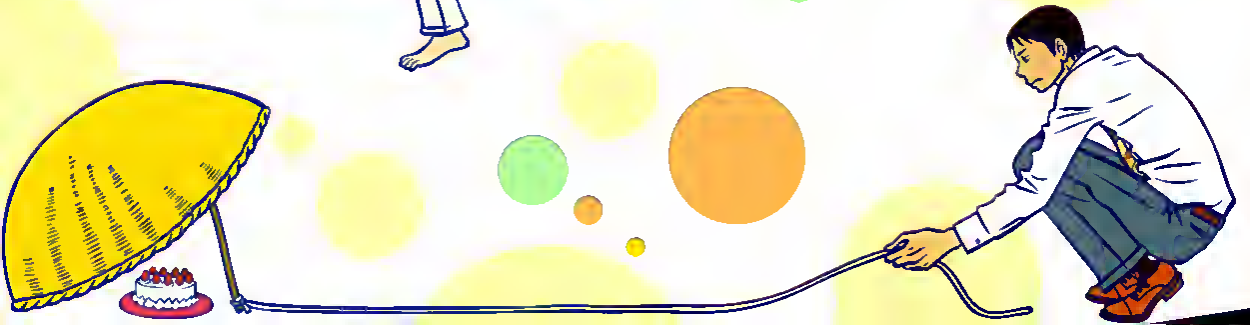

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CONTENTS

Lesson.1・・・・・3

Lesson.2・・・・・29

Lesson.3・・・・・53

Lesson.4・・・・・77

Lesson.5・・・・・101

Lesson.6・・・・・133

Lesson.7・・・・・165

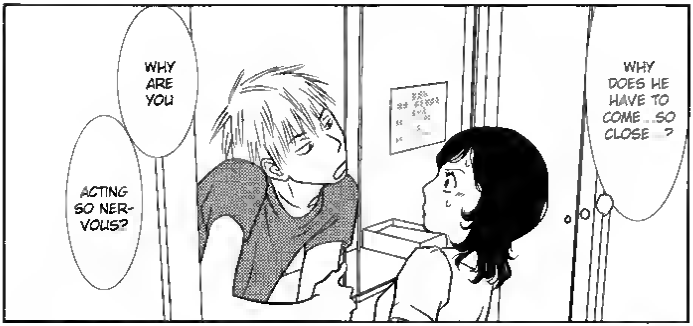
Lesson.8・・・・・199

Lesson.1

POSING TOO HARD
FOR THE CAMERA
I WANT TO BUY CLOOOTHES!

I work from Mondays to Fridays just like everybody else
学生課
I'm an office personnel in a trade school
my boyfriend introduced me to this place
Just when I was about to cave in from a frutless job search,
EXCUSE ME
UH
OH, NO I'M SO DROWSY AFTER EATING LUNCH
YAWN
It's called landing a job through connections

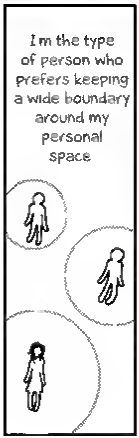
I'D LIKE TO DESTROY MY STUDENT ID,
AND HAVE ANOTHER ONE REISSUED...
W... What's wrong with this guy?!
DESTROY...?
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
UM... CAN YOU SHOW ME THE STUDENT ID IN QUESTION?
OH, I DON'T HAVE IT ON ME NOW
IF YOU DIDN'T BRING IT, WE CANNOT REISSUE ANOTHER ONE
NO KIDDING
HMM...


WHY ARE YOU
ACTING SO NERVOUS?
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO COME ..SO CLOSE ..?

HMM..
WELL THEN, I'LL BE BACK.

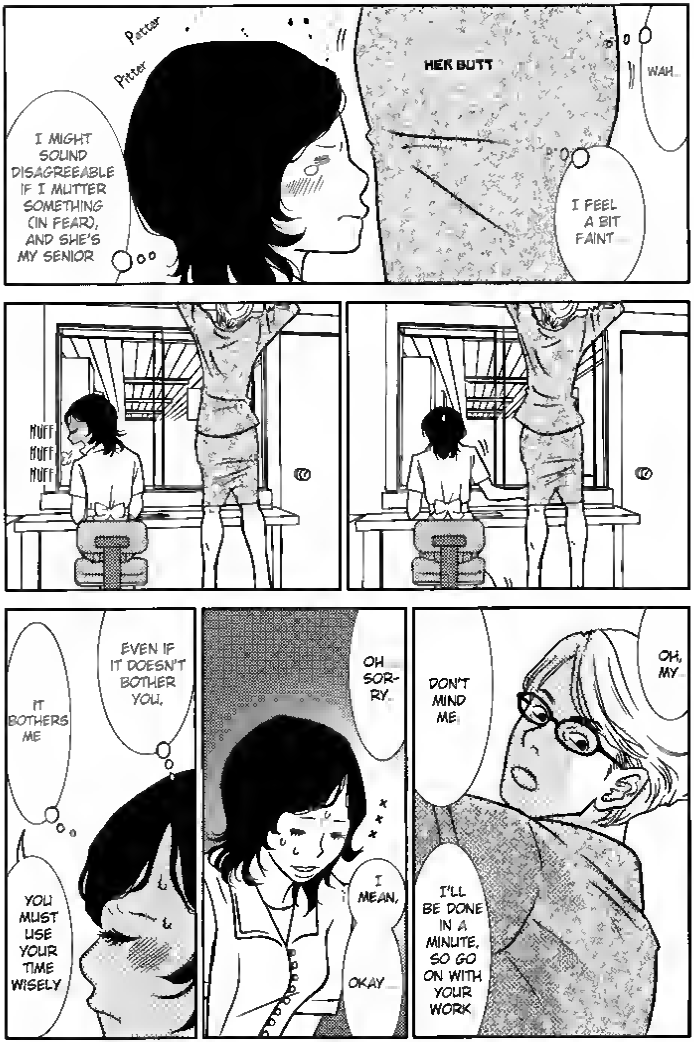
TEMPTER!
I.. I'M NOT!

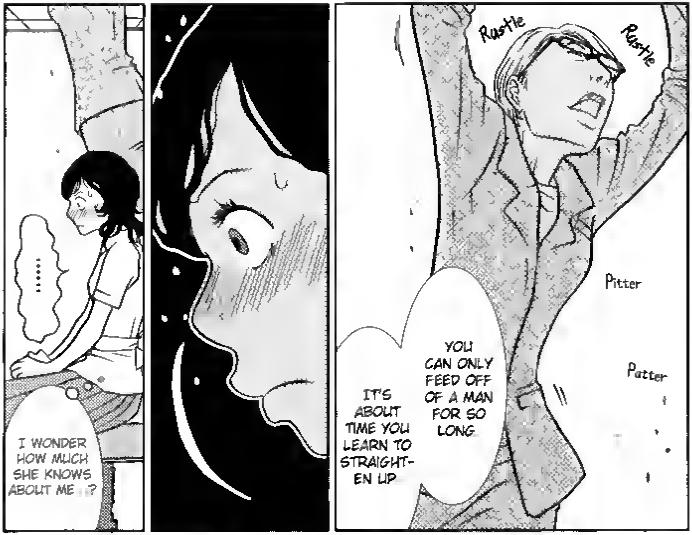
I start fidgeting whenever people come near me


I'm the type of person who prefers keeping a wide boundary around my personal space

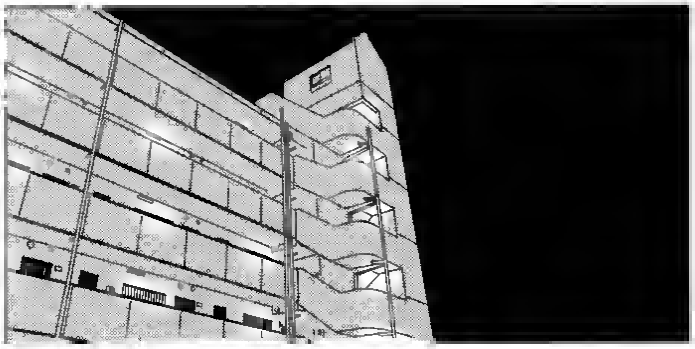
NO.. I WAS NERVOUS
.....

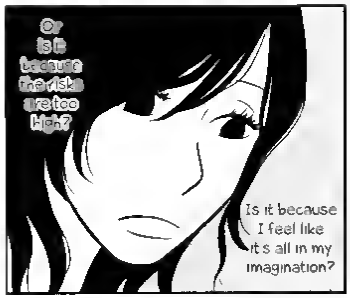
People who get a little too close
So I don't know how to handle a guy like the one that just came
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO PUT HIS FACE RIGHT UP TO MINE WHEN HE TALKS?
BESIDES, HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME, SO THAT JUST MAKES IT WEIRD
I have even more trouble with this person
Pitter
Patter
Wiggle
Wiggle


Pattar
Pitter
I MIGHT SOUND DISAGREEABLE IF I MUTTER SOMETHING (IN FEAR), AND SHE'S MY SENIOR
HER BUTT
WAH...
I FEEL A BIT FAINT...
HUFF HUFF HUFF
EVEN IF IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU,
IT BOTHERS ME
YOU MUST USE YOUR TIME WISELY
OH... SORRY...
I MEAN,
OKAY...
DON'T MIND ME.
I'LL BE DONE IN A MINUTE, SO GO ON WITH YOUR WORK
OH, MY


I WONDER HOW MUCH SHE KNOWS ABOUT ME...?
.....
Rustle
Rustle
Pitter
Patter
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LEARN TO STRAIGHT-EN UP.
YOU CAN ONLY FEED OFF OF A MAN FOR SO LONG.

So does she know that my boyfriend pays the rent for my room...?




Or is it because the risk is too high?
Is it because I feel like it's all in my imagination?

I've been doing a lot of thinking lately in that room

Either way, I just sit there thinking absent-mindedly without budging an inch
Sigh

These days,
OH...
THIS PERSON?
DO I STILL LOVE
It already been like that since the cold winter came.
RUSTLE
I keep forgetting to put a blanket over him.
EXCUSE ME
学生課

WHAT DID HE DO TO GET THIS THING SO CRUMPLED?
.....
YES...
CAN I GET IT REISSUED WITH THIS?
HERE'S THE RUINED ID.
HUH?
WE'LL HAVE YOUR REISSUED CARD READY IN ONE WEEK
OKAY, SO FILL OUT THIS FORM... AND THEN SUBMIT IT ALONG WITH 2,000 YEN'S WORTH OF STAMPS.
T-THE 2,000 YEN...?
UM...
I DON'T HAVE THAT SORT OF MONEY TODAY...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS WHEN I WAS HERE THE OTHER DAY?
YOU NEED 2,000 YEN?! AND IT TAKES A WEEK?!
IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE.
YES...
2,000 YEN'S WORTH?!

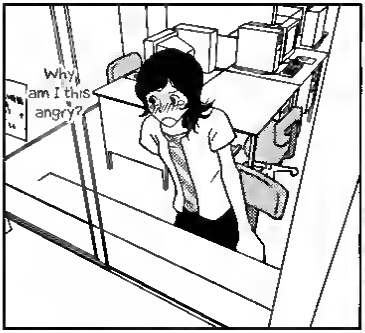
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT I HAVE TO COME BACK AGAIN AND BRING 2,000 YEN WITH ME?
AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THE STAMPS? WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO BUY THEM? DOES EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT IT?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO WITHHOLD THAT INFORMATION UNTIL THE NEXT TIME I COME?
学生課
OH... YOU CAN BUY THE STAMPS FROM THE VENDING MACHINE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AFFAIRS DIVISION...
NO USE SNAPPING OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR AN RPG BUDDY HERE, SO GIVE IT TO ME IN PLAIN AND SIMPLE WORDS.
YOU MAKE ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT GOING BACK AND FORTH, BACK AND FORTH!!
.....
HE'S SO D-DEMANDING!

WH...
ALSO I CAN BARELY HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
GONNA ANSWER ME, OR WHAT?
ISN'T HE A TAD BIT ONE-SIDED?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
HE'S HOVERING SO CLOSE... AND HIS FACE IS SCARY...
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE TO REPEAT THOSE WORDS EVERY-DAY, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'M HEAR-ING THEM, OKAY?
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
OF COURSE IT'S OB-VIOUS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW!!
IT'S EVEN POSTED HERE!
LOOK, EVERYTHING REGARDING CARD REISSUING IS ON THE SYLLABUS AND OUR WEB-SITE TOO!
HERE, I'LL EVEN LEND YOU THE 2,000 YEN.
SLAM
YOU CAN BUY IT WITH THIS!!
USE YOUR HEAD A LITTLE.
ATUWA
THIS ISN'T KINDERGARTEN, SO YOU CAN'T EXPECT PEOPLE TO ANTICIPATE EVERY LITTLE QUESTION YOU'VE GOT.
AND NORMAL-LY, YOU'D LOOK IT UP IF YOU DON'T!

OH.
THANKS
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!
WHERE'S THE VENDING MACHINE AGAIN?
I COULD BARELY HEAR YOU EARLIER.
!!!
IT'S THE VENDING MACHINE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AFFAIRS DIVISION!!
I BET HE SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THE ANSWER
PLEASE REMEMBER TO SLIDE THE BILLS INTO THE VENDING MACHINE, SPECIFY THE AMOUNT OF MONEY, AND PRESS THE ENTER BUTTON.

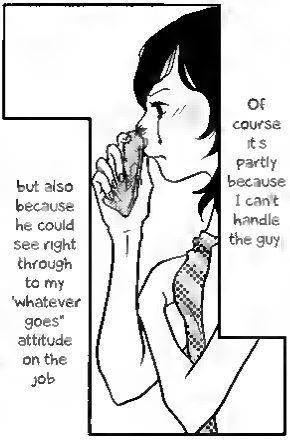
MOH

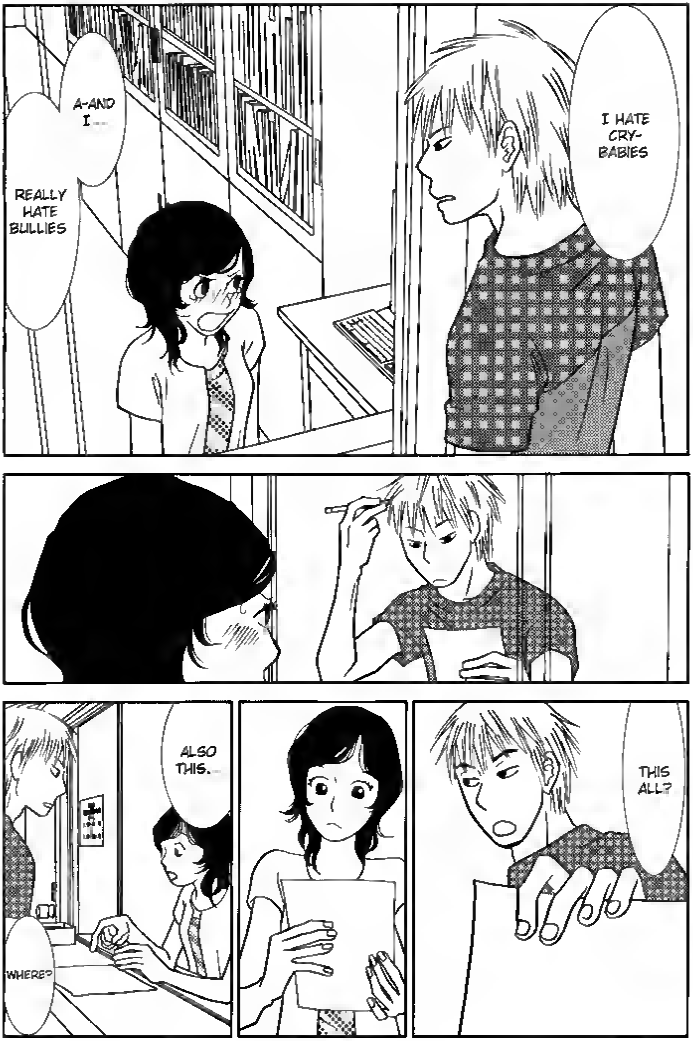
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE ANY BILLS OR CHANGE LEFT!
It's about 2,000 yen
Want the any change?
学生課
YEAH, YEAH.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT YOURSELF WITH THE MONEY OR THE STAMPS!


Why am I this angry?

学生課

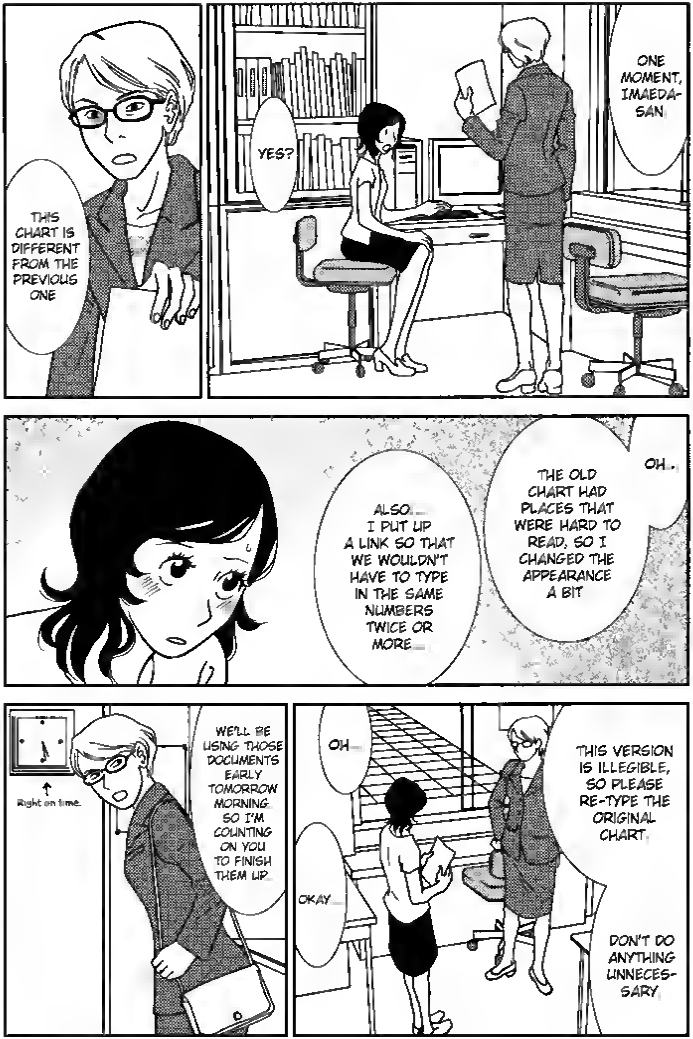
WELL
THAT'S BECAUSE I HATE WORKING


but also because he could see right through to my "whatever goes" attitude on the job
Of course it's partly because I can't handle the guy

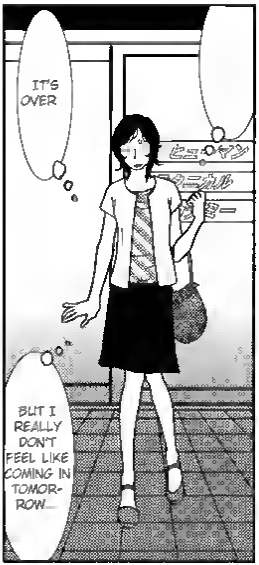

I HATE CRY-BABIES
A-AND I...
REALLY HATE BULLIES
ALSO THIS...
WHERE?
THIS ALL?

LEAN
NOT AGAIN.
LIME-SCENTED__?
.....
Hah
SQUINT
Chuckle
HAHA, IT TOTALLY MATCHES WITH HIM
LIME-SCENTED PEA-GREEN HAIR__

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM ANYONE WITH PEA-GREEN HAIR!
Anyway the rest is up to you
YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING THAT STUPID FACE, SO NO WONDER YOU CAN'T DO YOUR JOB
CLENCH
ONLY IDIOTS WOULD SAY THAT
BWOOOSH
HOW CAN HE STILL TREAT ME LIKE THAT AFTER I JUST GAVE HIM MONEY...?
W-WHAT IS HIS PROBLEM?
I'M GOING TO WRAP THINGS UP ON TIME NO MATTER WHAT!
GEEZ
Unfortunate things kept happening afterward


THIS CHART IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS ONE
YES?
ONE MOMENT, IMAEDA-SAN
OH...
THE OLD CHART HAD PLACES THAT WERE HARD TO READ, SO I CHANGED THE APPEARANCE A BIT
ALSO... I PUT UP A LINK SO THAT WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO TYPE IN THE SAME NUMBERS TWICE OR MORE...
Right on time.
WE'LL BE USING THOSE DOCUMENTS EARLY TOMORROW MORNING SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO FINISH THEM UP.
OH...
OKAY...
THIS VERSION IS ILLEGIBLE, SO PLEASE RE-TYPE THE ORIGINAL CHART.
DON'T DO ANYTHING UNNECESSARY.

I LEFT THE TIME CARDS UP TO YOU,
BUT DON'T FORGET THAT YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW UP ON YOUR OWN MISTAKES
MISTAKE ...? YOU CALL THIS A MISTAKE?
SO SHE'S BASICALLY TELLING ME TO WORK OVERTIME AND FIX THE TIME-CARDS ...
SO I WANTED TO GIVE IT A MORE GENERAL FORM ...
AND IT WAS LESS EFFICIENT...
I JUST THOUGHT THAT THE WAY THE CHART WAS MADE BEFORE WAS ODD AND FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO READ
.....
IMAEDA-SAN, YOU'RE WORKING LATE TODAY.
OH, YEAH, I MADE A MISTAKE.
HAHAHA, I SEE
MUST BE TOUGH.
HARADA'S REALLY PROUD OF HER WORK ON THAT CHART...
No way
Flap
Flap
Can't believe you had to stay late to fix it.


IT'S OVER
BUT I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE COMING IN TOMOR-ROW...

H-HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE HER THE NEXT TIME I COME INTO WORK ?
I can't take this
Guess you didn't know
SORRY, I HAPPEN TO BE HER SENIOR TOO...

HELLO?

Hey... Quit it
Give it back

But when I tried calling him...
I thought I'd ask my boyfriend to take her out for a drink next time

You're nuts! Give it back!
Oh, my god! She sounds really young!
Giggle
Screech
Kyah!
A PUB...?
Hello is this Miki-chan?
Kyahaha
A GIRL...
HUH...?
UM... YES
Oops I farted just now
You're 12 years younger than him, huh? How'd you two even meet?
Apparently his workplace was having a co-ed get together with about ten people. And his cellphone was being tossed from one person to the next.
Let's go on a date next time!
What's he like when you're alone together?
Hi, Miki-chan!
UM... EXCUSE ME
JUST FOR LAUGHS
I DON'T LIKE THIS SORT OF INTRUSIVE BEHAVIOR
I was forced to listen to gibberish from a bunch of drunkards
GET IT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULLS THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES HAVING FUN
CAN YOU PLEASE PUT HIM ON THE LINE?
I WAS CALLING FUJITA-SAN

I KNOW THERE'S A STRAINED ATMOSPHERE IN MY OFFICE...
BUT IF I HAD TO TAG ALONG ONCE A MONTH TO ONE OF THOSE STUPID DRINKING-PARTIES,
I'D RATHER CHOOSE MY COMPANY..
BIP
Oh?!
So you're the easy type?
Akaha
SEE IF I CARE.
Idiots!!
And this was exactly how he was when we started dating seven years ago
He's a smart guy, and prefers to wait until I've cooled down a bit before getting back to me
When something like this happens, Fujita-san doesn't bother to call me right away

THAT'S CONTRADICTING... CONSIDERING I'M SO CRAZY ABOUT MY "OLDER" BOYFRIEND.
Pinporu
Paraparu
AND I'VE HATED THAT PART OF HIM FOR THESE
SEVEN LONG YEARS
12 years is a big age gap
And so I'll remain a caged bird kept only to be doted on
HUH?
FUJITA-SAN?
It can't be
HUH?
HEY, TOMIKO
GUESS NOT...
WHAT IS IT?

FOR DRINKS?
SURE, I'LL GO!!
HELLO? HOPE?
YEAH, I JUST GOT OFF OF WORK MYSELF.
HE WAS TELLING ME ALL THIS DEPRESSING STUFF, YOU KNOW
YEP.
ENRAGED
LIKE, THERE'S NO NEED TO GO THAT FAR!
OH, EXCUSE ME! TWO GIZZARDS, PLEASE
OF COURSE I KNOW THAT I CAN'T DO MY JOB!
UH-HUH
AND ONE OF MY SENIORS GAVE ME A REALLY BAD ATTITUDE.
I HATE THAT.
I WANT TO QUIT MY JOB!
YOU BET.

THAT'S RIGHT, HIS HAIR WAS BLEACHED ABOUT THIS COLOR!
AND MESSY LIKE SOME KIND OF BIRD....
Today has to be the most unlucky day ever.
That's him.
OFFICE STAFF SURE DO EAT A LOT CONSIDERING THEY DON'T DO THEIR JOBS.
Gas-guzzlers.